

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 were pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8-10, 18 and 19 are canceled herein. Thus, claims 2-7, 11-17 and 20-23 are now pending. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The applicants note with appreciation the acceptance of the drawings.

The specification was objected to because paragraph [00006] contained sentences with allegedly contradictory content. Applicants respectfully submit that a brief review of paragraph [00017], for example, reveals that the first encoder need not encode the data. Thus when read in light of paragraph [00017] there is no contradiction between the content of the noted sentences.

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 8 and 9 are canceled and thus the rejection will not be discussed.

Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as not being properly enabled. Claims 18 and 19 are canceled and thus the rejection will not be discussed.

Claims 1, 6-9, 10 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Arnold et al U.S. Patent No. 5,475,677, (hereinafter "Arnold"). Claims 1, 8-10, 18 and 19 are canceled herein. The rejection is respectfully traversed with regard to claims 6, 7 and 17.

Claims 6, 7 and 17 are amended herein to depend from claims 2 and 11 as amended. Claims 2 and 11 are indicated allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims and have been so rewritten. Thus claims 6, 7 and 17 are allowable. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 6, 7 and 17 be withdrawn.

Claims 4 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly obvious in view of Arnold and Judd et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,701,137 (hereinafter "Judd"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4 and 14 are amended herein to depend from claims 2 and 11 as amended. Claims 2 and 11 are indicated allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims and have been so rewritten. Thus claims 4 and 14 are allowable. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 4 and 14 be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly obvious in view of Arnold and Martone et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,603,806 (hereinafter "Martone"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5, 15 and 16 are amended herein to depend from claims 2 and 11 as amended. Claims 2 and 11 are indicated allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims and have been so rewritten. Thus claims 5, 15 and 16 are allowable. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 5, 15 and 16 be withdrawn.

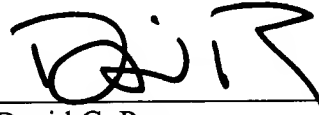
The indication of allowability with regard to claims 2-3, 11-13 and 20-23 is noted with appreciation. Claims 2 and 11 have been rewritten to include the limitations of base claims 1 and 10 respectively. In addition, claims previously depending from claims 1 and 10 are amended herein to depend from claims 2 and 11 as rewritten and are thus allowable. Claim 20 has been rewritten to overcome the rejection under 112, 2nd paragraph and to include the limitations of claim 18. It is submitted that claims 2-7, 11-17 and 20-23 are allowable. Favorable consideration is requested.

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In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Posz', written over a horizontal line.

David G. Posz

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